26th March 1954]

APPENDIX II.

[Vide answer to starred question No. 412 asked by Sri P. Rangaswami Reddiar at the meeting of the Legislative Assembly held on 26th March 1954, page 1146 supra.]

The Vaniyambadi Taluk Police had arrested and locked up one Arumugam in the station lock-up on the night of 24th October 1953 in connexion with a case of suspected theft. The prisoner met with his death under suspicious circumstances on the same night. According to the Standing Orders for enquiring into such cases, the Personal Assistant to the Collector of North Arcot held an inquest over the dead body in the station premises on the next day. While the inquest was going on, a crowd about 500 strong consisting mostly of youngsters below 15 years of age gathered near the station. The crowd grew restive and even started obstructing the body being taken to the mortuary for post-mortem examination. But the Personal Assistant to the Collector and the Deputy Superintendent of Police, Ambur, advised them to keep calm and subsequently the crowd dispersed.

2. Some time later the crowd again gathered before the station and demanded the surrender of the station-writer police constable who, according to them, had caused the death of the prisoner by torturing him. The Personal Assistant to the Collector and the Deputy Superintendent of Police with the assistance of the local village headman and some others, however, succeeded in persuading the crowd to disperse again. As a precautionary measure against any untoward happening, because of the repeated collection of the crowd, the officers mustered all the police force available and kept it ready for any emergency. But luckily the crowd dispersed slowly and there was no further trouble.

3. To strengthen the local force available, a platoon of the Armed Reserve was indented for and that also arrived at the place by the afternoon. The platoon patrolled the town that night and also on the following day. The Collector and the District Superintendent of Police also visited the village on 26th October 1953 in order to ensure that peaceful conditions prevailed.